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THE GUNFIGHTER

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366TH FIGHTER WING, MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, IDAHO

MSG’s new commander praises group’s successes

By MASTER SGT. BRIAN S. ORBAN
GUNFIGHTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The men and women of the 366th Mission Support Group maintain an outstanding level of award-winning performance as they support the Gunfighters and warfighters around the world, according to the group’s new commander.

In an assumption of command ceremony Tuesday morning, Col. Tom Laffey said the mission support group’s “eye watering performances” remained exceptional despite the challenges the nearly 1,600 people in the group faced over the past year.



COL. TOM LAFFEY

At the same time, the group and its people played a significant role in the nation’s continuing success in the Global War on Terror, according to Col. Robert Broderick, 366th Fighter Wing vice commander. Their efforts brought Iraq’s infrastructure “back from the brink of disaster.”

“It’s a daunting task to be the individual

charged with leading this extraordinary group of warriors,” Colonel Broderick said during the ceremony. However, Colonel Laffey’s experience and depth of knowledge “fit like a glove” into leading the mission support group.

A native of Rhode Island, Colonel Laffey previously served as the director for facilities management and principal advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations at the Pentagon. He was also the chief of the Air Force Base Realignment and Closer Joint Cross Service Division for the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force and oversaw \$2.4 billion in

realignment investments for 124 military installations affected by the Defense Department plan.

These experiences as well as the colonel’s award-winning expertise in running military housing and environmental restoration programs will prove vital in the management of similar programs at Mountain Home, Colonel Broderick said.

In his first address to the group, Colonel Laffey said commanding the mission support group is a “tremendous opportunity” and looks to build upon his unit’s growing list of achievements in the months ahead.

“These ... are truly a phenomenal series of accomplishments and successes that you should all be very proud of,” the 23-year Air Force veteran said. “You are all leading not only Air Combat Command but the Air Force in so many individual- and squadron-level categories.

“As I was able to discover in just a short time, you are achieving this high level of excellence both here at Mountain Home and in supporting the extremely demanding mission requirements in fighting the Global War on Terror in Iraq, Afghanistan and at numerous other deployed locations,” the colonel added.

Heart Link: boot camp for spouses

By SUSAN RUEGER
GUNFIGHTER FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

To help military spouses better understand the Air Force mission and the resources and services available to them, the family support center holds its Heart Link orientation program May 12 at the Gunfighters Club.

The increasing number of deployments makes being a military spouse challenging, according to FSC officials. Faced with being the central figure of a family, they have the unique challenge of becoming the expert in accessing services and agencies within the military community.

That’s where Heart Link comes in. In addition to providing information to spouses; Heart Link reminds spouses they are an important and integral part of the Air Force community.

Every spouse is encouraged to attend, whether they are new to military life or a veteran of many deployments, said Marilyn Nevala, Heart Link program administrator. It’s a day of information and fun.

Participants meet the wing commander and representatives of many base agencies who share information and answer questions. They also play games and receive prizes.

“The program makes spouses feel important and empowered while making them feel like a vital part of the team,” said Mrs. Nevala. “What they learn gives them the tools to take care of themselves and their families.

“It enables active-duty members to focus on their mission, because they know their spouse is aware of what resources are available and how to seek out information,” she added.

Another important objective of Heart Link is letting people know the Air Force cares about families, Mrs. Nevala said.

“By making spouses feel empowered and giving that sense of community, they will be more satisfied with Mountain Home Air Force Base and the Air Force way of life,” said Mrs. Nevala. “Spouses have a say in the members’ decisions to remain in the Air Force. By helping families adjust, adapt and belong, they will be more apt to view the Air Force experience as a positive one, and that will have an impact when decision-time comes.”

To register for the next Heart Link program, call the family support center at 828-2458 by Wednesday.

HONORING A HERO: ONE MAN’S JOURNEY



LT. COL. JEFF PRICHARD, 390TH FIGHTER SQUADRON COMMANDER, PRESENTS GINNIE CURNUTTE WITH THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS MEDAL HER HUSBAND, LT. COL. WILLIAM CURNUTTE RECEIVED FOR HIS ACTIONS IN VIETNAM.

By MASTER SGT. YANCY MAILES
GUNFIGHTER HISTORIAN
AND SENIOR AIRMAN BRIAN STIVES
GUNFIGHTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The journey came to an end in the echoes of the 21-gun salute. The 21-gun salute shook Troy Curnutte back to the present. Just moments earlier, he’d allowed himself to drift away to reminisce about his dad and the times when they would talk and laugh together.

That was then. Back to the present.

A bugler started to play Taps, and the young man rose from his chair. Then Troy Curnutte paid final homage to his father the best way he knew; with a farewell salute.

For Troy Curnutte, his father was his role model and best friend in addition to being an Air Force officer. Lt. Col. William Curnutte was a veteran fighter pilot who flew combat missions in World War II and Vietnam.

“He had flown so many hours in more than 25

different aircraft. I could picture a young, green second lieutenant and then fast forward to that experienced and seasoned pilot flying combat missions in Vietnam,” said Mr. Curnutte.

But there was something else about this veteran – something special that Troy Curnutte would spend the next several months discovering.

The mystery started from a worn, blue military briefcase sitting in the back of his parent’s closet. Inside were many of his father’s military mementos, including his medals, flight helmet and the flag that covered his casket ... along with something unexpected.

“As I was about to close the lid, I stuck my hand in the very back flap and was surprised to pull out a wrinkled and stained letter,” said Mr. Curnutte. “That letter was post marked March 25, 1969, and was sent to my Dad from a Lt. James Fegan who was in the hospital at Wilford Hall Hospital, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Colonel Curnutte volunteered for Vietnam and was stationed at Da Nang Air Base from June 1968 to June 1969. He served as a command pilot with the

366th Tactical Fighter Wing and flew F-4D combat missions with the 390th Tactical Fighter Squadron – the “Wild Boars.”

Mr. Curnutte sat down, carefully opened the fragile envelope and began to read.

“Thank you for your letter, it is great to hear from my friends at Da Nang and particularly you.” Emotions overcame the junior Curnutte as he learned of a secret his father carried with him to his grave.

Lieutenant Fegan wrote, “I was told of your hair-raising mission in support of my rescue. I saw and heard the guns. I was among them. When I heard that you were going after the big guns with in-country ordnance, I was really overwhelmed. I guess that the true definition of a fighter pilot is when one throws away the odds and lets it all hang out for one of his fellows. I was very humbled, impressed and amazed by the efforts of all involved in my rescue, but your efforts made a particular impression, and I thank you for a job well done and am glad that no harm came to you when

Please see **HERO**, Page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Senior NCO reminds everyone to do the little things

Over my 17-year career, it never ceases to amaze me how we forget the little things. I’ve narrowed my list down to three areas it seems some Air Force members have a tendency to forget: customs and courtesies, proper wear of the uniform and accepting responsibility for one’s actions. Maybe we get wrapped

up in the day-to-day mission and lose our focus. Or is it a sense of not caring? Whatever it may be, I’d like to stop a minute and see where we measure up.

• **Page 2 •**

Predeployment training helps Gunfighters get back to basics

Gunfighters continue to return

to the basics of warfighting through a local training program aimed at honing combat skills taught in basic training.

Recognizing the need for “standardized predeployment training,” an official Air Force memorandum-

dum signed last year directed all deployable Airmen assigned to places like Mountain Home Air Force Base to attend a two-day expeditionary combat skills training course.

Taught by security forces instructors, the course includes 19 hours of training ...

• **Page 3 •**

Gunfighters compete in 'biggest loser'

Move over reality television. A real life weight loss showdown started Monday at Mountain Home Air Force Base.

They may not reality T.V. stars with personal trainers. However, these 20 Gunfighters are just a handful of Americans who watched NBC’s “Biggest Loser” competition with one thought in mind: “If

they can do it, maybe I can, too.”

Monday was the first day of ...

• **Page 9 •**



Who you are means doing the small things right

By MASTER SGT. JOEL BERRY
366TH AEROMEDICAL-DENTAL SQUADRON

Over my 17-year career, it never ceases to amaze me how we forget the little things. I’ve narrowed my list down to three areas it seems some Air Force members have a tendency to forget: customs and courtesies, proper wear of the uniform and accepting responsibility for one’s actions. Maybe we get wrapped up in the day-to-day mission and lose our focus. Or is it a sense of not caring? Whatever it may be, I’d like to stop a minute and see where we measure up. Customs and courtesies were a part of the Air Force since the beginning and still have an everlasting impact. Today, they’re one of those little things that, if forgotten, can carry a huge burden on you and your squadron. For example, I’ve recently seen people, both active duty and families, not stopping for reveille or retreat. This base

and the Air Force have lost way too much over the years not to take a moment and be thankful for what we have, the sacrifices we’ve made, and the meaning of the flag we stand for. How many times have you really had your hand’s too full to render a proper salute for a passing officer? Were your hands really that full, or did you say, “I’ll fix him or her?” If you can’t take a moment to officially greet someone, then I’d question whether you have the ability to lead. What about that time while in uniform when you didn’t wear a hat while pumping gas on base. Did you really forget, or did you really care? Whatever the reason, the quite junior-ranking Airman next to you with their hat on pumping gas was left to wonder. Customs and courtesies are instilled in us from the beginning, much like the wear of the uniform. In fact, the uniform is a huge topic of late with the recent uniform board meeting.

Do you still have patches on your uniform from your last base – you know the base you moved from a year ago? Ever wondered why your troop looks at you with a sense of disbelief after they took the time to go to clothing sales to get the same patches you should be wearing? What about those DCUs? I’m not talking about the ones you earned proudly while serving honorably while deployed. I’m talking about the ones that are supposed to be green but have faded and tattered so much the distinguished differential isn’t clear anymore. Accepting responsibility will never let you down in any situation. However, I’ve ran into people in uniform all too often that simply don’t want any part of it. Leadership is the pinnacle of accepting responsibility. Have you ever turned down a key position because you were “too scared” to try? Have you not volunteered to sit on a council or emcee the promotion ceremony because it felt too uncomfortable in front

of all those people? How many times did you pass up competing for airman, NCO or CGO of the quarter? What a missed opportunity for your success all because you failed to accept responsibility. Accepting responsibility is the key to being a successful and productive Airman in today’s Air Force. You must seize every opportunity that comes your way – if not for you, for your family. Hopefully you can sit back and measure up to all of the standards and maybe add a few more to your list. Everyone forgets or just doesn’t know. It’s everyone’s responsibility to correct and teach what the small things really mean. Take the time to solidify the customs and courtesies in your squadron. Mentor the proper way to wear the uniform to your entire group. Finally, ensure your people accept responsibility, and may they relish in that opportunity. Taking care of the small things first will better prepare you for the larger ones.

COMMANDER'S HOTLINE



COL. CHARLES SHUGG
This hotline is your direct line to me. It's your opportunity to make Mountain Home Air Force Base a better place to live and work. I review every response to hotline questions, but functional experts prepare most responses. If possible, you should first contact the organization responsible for the problem or function. Your first sergeants, commanders and agency chiefs want to help, so please let them try. If you do not know how to proceed or if you have already tried your chain of command, then do not hesitate to contact the Hotline at 828- 6262 or e-mail CommandersHotline @mountainhome.af.mil. Not all hotlines are published, but if you leave your name and phone number or e-mail address, I will make sure you get a reply.

COL. CHARLES SHUGG
366TH FIGHTER WING
COMMANDER

2005 AWARDS	
<i>As of this week</i>	
Air Force	13
ACC	53
12th Air Force	10

LAST DUI

366th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Days without a DUI:

38

AADD made 47 saves in April, and 535 so far this year

(Courtesy of AADD)

THE GUNFIGHTER



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Gunfighters prepare to celebrate National Nurses Week

By CAPT. MARY HESLIN
366TH MEDICAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON

The base honors the work of America’s 2.9 million registered nurses who save lives and maintain the health of millions of individuals during this year’s National Nurses Wee, which starts Monday. The theme of the 2006 observance is “Nurses: Strength, Commitment and Compassion” and ends May 12 – the birthday of Florence Nightingale. During National Nurses Week, members of the 366th Medical Group registered nurse and aerospace medical service technicians celebrate with a luncheon hosted by Lt. Col. Bonnie Mack, 366th MDG chief nurse executive. The event features a breakfast hosted and prepared by 366th MDG providers and an ice cream social sponsored and served by the 366th MDG executive staff. In

addition, Lt. Col. Patrick Dawson, 366th Medical Operations Squadron commander, presents a lecture on his deployment experience at an Air Force theater hospital in Balad, Iraq. Traditionally, National Nurses Week is devoted to highlighting the diverse ways registered nurses are working to improve health care. From bedside nursing in hospitals and long-term care facilities to the halls of research institutions, state legislatures and Congress, the depth and breadth of the nursing profession continues to meet the expanding health care needs of American society. Florence Nightingale is known as the founder of the modern nursing profession and military nursing. However, nurses have served since the Revolutionary War. Although these nurses were originally not “nursing” in the modern sense of the word, they did pave the way for future generations.

Nurses have served in militaries all over the world since Nightingale’s time. The U.S. Army Nurse Corps was established in 1901. The Navy Nurses Corps was formally established seven years later, although nurses had served aboard ships and in Navy hospitals since the War of 1812. During World War I, approximately 12,000 nurses served on active-duty status. At the height of World War II in 1945, more than 57,000 nurses were on active-duty status. The Air Force Nurse Corps was born out of the Army Nurse Corps in July 1949 when 1,199 Army nurses transferred to form the nucleus of the new corps. Air Force nurses have served in every conflict since 1949, making key contributions to their profession and sacrifices for their service. Juanita Redmond, for example, served in the Army Nurse Corps serving in Manila during WWII.

During the invasion by the Japanese, she and many other nurses stayed to care for the injured soldiers, and in doing so, were captured. She escaped just days before the fall of Corrigedor. The Air Force Association now gives an annual nursing award named in her honor. Another noteworthy military nurse with an award in her honor is Capt. Mary T. Klinker. Captain Klinker was an Air Force flight nurse who died in 1975 on a C-5 Galaxy during take-off. The C-5 was loaded with Vietnamese orphans being airlifted out prior to the fall of Saigon as part of Operation Baby Lift. Gunfighter nurses are supported by aerospace medical service technicians – key members of the health care team. All aerospace medical service technicians are nationally-registered emergency medical technicians. Some have additional training and certi-

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Distinguished Flying Cross medal

This medal is awarded to any officer or enlisted person of the U.S. armed forces who distinguished themselves in actual combat in support of operations by “heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight, subsequent to November 11, 1918.” The decoration also went to servicemembers for actions performed prior to November 11, 1918, when the individual was recommended for, but didn’t received the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross or Distinguished Service Medal.

Authorized by Congress in July 1926 the first Distinguished Flying Cross went to Capt. Charles A. Lindbergh with the Army Reserve for his solo flight of 3,600 miles across the Atlantic in 1927. The navy’s first D.F.C. recipient was Cmdr. Richard E. Byrd May 9, 1926, for his flight to and from the North Pole. Both these famous aviators also received the Medal of Honor with the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart also received the Distinguished Flying Cross. Hers was the only such award, since an executive order on March 1, 1927, ruled the D.F.C. should not be conferred on civilians.

During wartime, members of the armed forces of friendly foreign nations serving with the United States also qualify for the D.F.C. In addition, it’s given to those who display heroism while working as instructors or students at flying schools.

The Distinguished Flying Cross was designed by Elizabeth Will and Arthur E. DuBois. It is a bronze cross pattee, with rays between the arms of the cross. On the obverse is a propeller of four blades, with one blade in each arm of the cross, and in the re-entrant angles of the cross are rays which form a square. The cross is suspended by a rectangular-shaped bar. Centered on this is a plain shield. The reverse is blank and suitable for engraving the recipients name and rank.

The ribbon has a narrow red center stripe, flanked on either side by a thin white stripe, a wide stripe of dark blue, a narrow white stripe and narrow dark blue at the edge of the ribbon.

Subsequent awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross are indicated by oak-leaf clusters for Air Force people.

HERO

- Continued from Page 1

you dared the guns with in-country ordnance.”

“In all the discussions I had with Dad over the years about his days in Vietnam, he never mentioned this particularly dangerous mission he flew near Tchepone, Laos, against overwhelming enemy odds, to help rescue a downed fellow fighter pilot,” said Mr. Curnutte. “There were many heroes supporting that rescue mission and, as I read the letter over again and again, I was so proud that my Dad was one of them. As I finished reading that treasured letter the tears just streamed down my cheeks with so much pride for my fallen Dad. I knew in my heart that I had a final mission to fly for him and deeply committed myself to learn much more.”

Shortly after finding the letter, Mr. Curnutte learned Lieutenant Fegan was one of his father’s young pilots assigned to the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing at Da Nang Air Base. Other than that, he knew very little. He began calling everyone he thought who could help unravel the mystery. He posted his plight on Internet Web sites requesting the help of former Gunfighters. The key to unlock the mystery arrived in an e-mail from a Jolly Green pararescueman involved in the rescue.

According to the rescuer, on Jan. 17, 1969, an F-4D fighter flying a mission was shot down over the Chepone area of south central Laos. Both crew members ejected, but only Lieutenant Fegan made it out alive. Once the injured lieutenant hit the ground, he began to speak with Sandy pilots and forward air controllers orbiting overhead, who fought to keep the man alive and then get him out. The A-1 Skyraider pilots comforted the downed Airman and assured him a rescue was underway. Losing two A-1s and a Jolly Green crew to enemy fire, rescue teams finally pulled Lieutenant Fegan to safety 20 hours later.

With the e-mail, Mr. Curnutte knew what happened that day but still didn’t know what role his father played. Before fully digesting the material, he received Lieutenant Fegan’s current address and sat down to pen him a letter. The reply



COURTESY PHOTO

TROY CURNUTTE RAISED MONEY TO RESTORE AN F-4 TO ITS ORIGINAL 390TH FIGHTER SQUADRON COMBAT COLORS, TO HONOR HIS FATHER AND THE GUNFIGHTERS.

came back quick.

“Troy, your letter arrived a couple of days ago,” the letter started. “Though I walk with a limp and have a lot of interesting scars, I’m pretty active, became a physician and now work as a medical officer in a corporation. But it was me, the shave tail first lieutenant, for whom your dad did the incredible. Immortality is in the stories we leave to be told again and again. There are countless people who know only part of the story of Jan. 17 to 18, 1969, but do know of the incredibly brave work of Gunfighter 3 – that colonel in the rescue of a humble first lieutenant.”

At the time of Lieutenant Fegan’s crash, Colonel Curnutte received an order to scramble his aircraft and provide cover action for the rescue mission. Normally, alert aircraft were loaded with munitions that forced them to fly low over the enemy in order to be effective and accurate. This placed the aircrew in hazardous situations as every enemy gun could and did fire at them.

When the North Vietnamese guns began targeting the circling Sandy pilots, they called in Colonel Curnutte to silence the enemy. However, before he could get there, the enemy’s guns had already downed one A-1, killing the pilot and injuring another.

As Colonel Curnutte approached the area, he listened to the chatter on the radio and prepared to destroy the guns. He swooped in over the target, spotted the enemy and unleashed his ordnance. The guns

fell silent. In turn, a Jolly Green rescue helicopter lowered its PJ who then lifted Lieutenant Fegan from the cover of the jungle. They both flew to freedom.

“At this point, I knew that my ultimate mission had indeed taken on a new purpose,” said Mr. Curnutte. “With everything I now knew concerning my Dad’s efforts with this rescue mission, it was obvious to me that he certainly deserved a medal for his heroic actions on that day.”

As Mr. Curnutte began the campaign to gain his dad the recognition he deserved, he contacted his father’s former commander, Col. Cecil Foster. With his help, the Air Force awarded Colonel Curnutte the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions on Jan. 17, 1969.

“As I opened the medal case to see the Distinguished Flying Cross, I put my hand on my Dad’s flying helmet,” said Mr. Curnutte. “I could picture him in that cockpit, with that certain expression and smile on his face and read the citation aloud to him.”

In the days after receiving the letter, Mr. Curnutte opened that old blue briefcase and thumbed through the papers once again. He held his father’s medal and realized that he still wanted more. He wanted to find an F-4 and immortalize his father’s memory and pay homage to the Gunfighters.

Eventually, he found a rusted, dilapidated F-4 no longer suited for flying and had it transferred to Texas. He volunteered to lead a

drive to raise money and restore the Phantom to its former glory, painted in its original Wild Boar combat colors.

On March 25, 2006, with a crowd of 500 friends and family watching, Mr. Curnutte pulled the sheet unveiling the cockpit of the F-4, revealing his father’s name.

“We saw it for the first time last July when the museum first got the plane, and they opened up the canopy for us,” said Mr. Curnutte. “I sat down there in the seat where Dad was sitting 37 years ago. It was overwhelming, especially knowing what those guys did in that cockpit and how they faced danger every day.”

In a more formal ceremony that day, Lt. Col. Jeff Prichard, the current 390th Fighter Squadron commander, presented the Distinguished Flying Cross to Mrs. Curnutte.

That night, while still delighting in his triumph, Mr. Curnutte went home and looked at the tattered blue case and thought about the journey. Deep in his heart he still knew there was one more thing to do before his final mission for his father was completed. He wrote down the following:

“On Father’s Day, I will lay your medal upon your grave, look up, stand smartly and give you a final salute. And I will picture you once again back in that cockpit, with that special smile on your face, and proudly watch as you raise your hand and return my salute.”

Gunfighters go back to basics

By Staff Sgt. Chawntain Sloan
Gunfighter Public Affairs

Gunfighters continue to return to the basics of warfighting through a local training program aimed at honing combat skills taught in basic training.

Recognizing the need for “standardized predeployment training,” an official Air Force memorandum signed last year directed all deployable Airmen assigned to places like Mountain Home Air Force Base to attend a two-day expeditionary combat skills training course.

Taught by security forces instructors, the course includes 19 hours of training designed to make Gunfighters and other Air Force members “proficient and comfortable with handling a weapon and working within a team to defend themselves, their team and their mission,” said Lt. Gen. Brady Roger, Air Force deputy chief of staff of manpower and personnel, in a recent memo to the service.

Since the Global War on Terror began, both Army and Air Force roles have become more integrated, and this training is part of that transition, according to Todd Larkin, an ECST instructor here.

“The Army used to perform perimeter security outside the wire, but they are pulling away from that duty,” said Mr. Larkin. “As (Air Force) security forces take on that role, other (Airmen) are going to have to start taking on some of the responsibilities of securing the base.”

Training here is similar to Warrior Week in basic training – a weeklong field training exercise for enlisted trainees. The ECST course features an even mix of classroom instruction and practical application on a variety of topics.

The first day of training is taught at the base theater and covers integrated base defense concepts including use of force, radio operating procedures, improvised explosive device identification and sentry duties.

The second day, the trainees move out to the base’s combat training area for a field exercise where they test their abilities at rifle fighting and weapons maintenance.

“Some people come in with the attitude that the ‘cops’ are pawning their jobs off on them,” said Gerald Weed, an ECST instructor here. “By the end of the training, they are glad they did it ... and have a greater appreciation for what security forces does.”



PHOTO BY AIRMAN DANA HILL

DURING THE TWO-DAY EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT SKILLS TRAINING COURSE HERE, GUNFIGHTERS PRACTICE DEFENSIVE AND EVASIVE TECHNIQUES THEY CAN USE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES IN A HOSTILE SITUATION.

“About 80 to 85 percent say they want the training to be longer ...” added Mr. Larkin.

Airmen here flagged to deploy to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility and any others the wing command designates are scheduled by their unit deployment managers to receive the training within 60 days of departure.

“The only people exempt are people who have gone through specialized training such as security forces or transportation (Airmen) who have trained for convoy duty,” said Mr. Larkin.

For more information about this and other training requirements, Airmen should contact their unit deployment manager.

UNIT DEPLOYMENT MANAGERS

366th Operations Group

Stephen Ardis, 828-1747
389 FS
Capt. Chad Hillberg, 828-6905/6389
390 FS
Tech Sgt. Arthur Dehart, 828-6390
391 FS
Capt. Brad Bashore, 828-6179/3315

366th Maintenance Group

Master Sgt. Timothy Boothby, 828-3861
366th Equipment Maintenance Squadron
TSgt Shawn Heckathorne, 828-3925
366th Component Maintenance Squadron
Master Sgt. Kenneth McMillan, 828-1829
366th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Master Sgt. Joseph Leclair, 828-1001

366th Mission Support Group

Staff Sgt. Michael Glover, 828-2011
366th Services Squadron
Tech Sgt. David Rawls, 828-4239
366th Contracting Squadron
2nd Lt. David Leong, 828-6487
366th Comptroller Squadron
2nd Lt. Kathy Cyr, 828-5000
366th Communication Squadron
Master Sgt. Joe Zellej, 828-8888
366th Security Forces Squadron
Tech Sgt. Jeffery Gates, 828-1885
366th Fighter Wing Staff
Master Sgt. Alfredo Lopez, 828-3929
366th Logistic Readiness Squadron
Jane Hodge, 828-6964
366th Civil Engineer Squadron
Jim Sutherland, 828-8264

366th Medical Group

1st Lt. Andrew Mattern, 828-7439
366th Aeromedical Dental Squadron
Capt. Jeff Collins, 828-7285

726th Air Control Squadron

Master Sgt. Patrick O’leary, 828-4169

Air Warfare Battlelab

Maj. Andrea Vineyard, 828-3520

NEWSLINE

New laundry dry cleaners hour

The Base Exchange laundry dry cleanersnow closes every Thursday.

Legal office closure

The legal office closes today from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for an official function.

Idaho hunting laws

Bob Sellers from Idaho Fish and Game visits the Base Exchange from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday to answer questions about hunting laws and procedures in Idaho.

Golf tournament

Operation Warmheart sponsors a four-person best-ball golf tournament May 12 at Silver Sage Golf Course. A shotgun start begins at 11 a.m. The cost is \$120 per team and includes green fees, golf cart and barbecue after the tournament. All teams must register and pay by May 12. To register, call Master Sgt. Mikel Caraway at 828-4275 or Master Sgt. Jeffery Waters at 828-2263.

Case lot sale

The commissary case lot sale is May 12 and 13. The sale features savings from 15 to 50 percent off regular price on more than 150 items.

Paintball competition

The Airmen Committed to Excellence committee is hosting an “Airmen versus Supervisors” paintball contest May 19 from 8 a.m. to noon at Area 366 paintball field. The cost is \$12 and includes all the gear needed and a free barbecue. The deadline to sign up is May 12. For more information, call Senor Airman Joe Wilkinson at 828-5706.

Did you know?

A retiree is guaranteed monthly income for life, but retired pay stops the date the retiree dies. The Survivor Benefit Plan was created to protect widowed spouses and dependent children from a total loss of the security retired pay provides. With SBP, a retiree’s eligible survivor always receives part of the deceased member’s military retired pay. Prior to retiring, everyone has a chance to enroll. For more information, call Elise Mathias, SBP counselor, at 828-2475.

A military member can get their United States citizenship for free. To re-enlist, military personnel must have a citizenship and it can take anywhere from six months to a year to complete. For more information, call the military personnel flight at 828-6254.

For efficient funds management, base people are encouraged to source Defense Reutilization Marketing Offices through the Web site www.drms.dla.mil for all supply needs.

What is Zero Overpricing? The purpose of ZOP is to reduce overpricing in the Air Force and other Department of Defense acquisitions, to furnish a means for all Air Force materiel users to become involved in promoting more efficient use of funds, and to provide for recognition and awards for such personnel. Requests for price challenges are initiated on AF Form 1046 and submitted to the 366th Logistics Readiness Squadron customer service office.

All supply customers should be aware of the importance of the monthly due-out validation. This validation involves money, and could result in the loss of organizational funds and Air Force funds if the validation is not completed.

Chief McKinley selected as 15th CMSAF

AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

WASHINGTON - Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley this week named Chief Master Sgt. Rodney J. McKinley to serve as the 15th chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

Chief McKinley assumes his new position July 1, following the June 30 retirement of Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray.

Chief Murray's retirement culminates 29 years of Air Force service.

"Chief McKinley is a tremendous leader with an impressive array of expeditionary and combat experiences to help him steer our Airmen and serve as my partner," General Moseley said. "We were blessed to have a number of exceptionally well-qualified candidates for the position. While the decision was not an easy one, I feel we have the right person to lead our enlisted force during this time of a long war on terrorism, recapitalization and transformation."

Chief McKinley currently serves as the command chief master sergeant for Pacific Air Forces. He originally joined the Air Force in 1974, took a break in service in 1977, attended college and re-entered the Air Force in 1982.

Chief McKinley's career includes assignments in the medical, aircraft maintenance and first sergeant fields. He has also served as the command chief master sergeant of the 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein Air Base, Germany; 1st Fighter Wing at Langley Air Force Base, Va.; 379th Air Expeditionary Wing in South-



CHIEF MASTER SGT. RODNEY J. MCKINLEY, SHOWN HERE SHAKING HANDS WITH AIRMEN, HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE 15TH CHIEF MASTER OF THE AIR FORCE BY AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. T. MICHAEL MOSELEY.

west Asia; and 11th Air Force at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

The office of the chief master sergeant of the Air Force represents the highest enlisted level of leadership, provides direction for the enlisted corps and represents their interests to the American public and

all levels of government. The chief master sergeant of the Air Force serves as a personal adviser to the Air Force chief of staff and secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale, proper utilization and progress of the enlisted force and their families.

Air Force automates training records process

By PHIL BERUBE
AIR UNIVERSITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. - Airmen in logistics career fields at places like Mountain Home will soon have access to an online tool that takes an Airman's training records out of a desk drawer and makes them available through a desktop computer.

The automated training records and management application, called "Training Business Area," or TBA, on the Air Force Portal, replaces the need to file and maintain paper copies of on-the-job training records.

The initial version of TBA is projected to support the training of more than 200,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian personnel.

The TBA application gives supervisors access to virtual training products such as career field education and training plans, or CFETPs, and Air Force job qualification standards. They can create individual training plans, document upgrade training and accomplish other related actions they now do with paper and pencil.

TBA is geared to keep warfighters in the fight and not bogged down with paperwork.

"TBA will save warfighters thousands of hours in documenting, managing, completing and transcribing training actions," said Master Sgt. Cynthia Kaelin of the 754th Electronics Systems Group at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Ala.

Sergeant Kaelin is a member of the team that developed and loaded more

than 290 training products into the TBA application.

"Another huge benefit is that supervisors will get near real-time access to revised (career field education and training plans) from their career field managers," Sergeant Kaelin said.

Supervisors will appreciate not having to transcribe paper copies of revised CFETPs, said Chief Master Sgt. Ellsworth Brown, the Air Force career field manager for aircraft maintenance systems specialties.

"This single capability is priceless," he said.

Once operational, TBA allows Air Force career field managers, major command functional managers, "schoolhouse" training managers and subject-matter experts to expedite CFETP revisions during utilization and training workshops, Chief Brown said.

"Once this group finalizes revisions to a CFETP, the (career field manager) can quickly gain publication approval and push the new change electronically Air Force-wide to everyone loaded into TBA for that particular (plan). The end of transcribing training records is near," he said.

Chief Brown was one of about 20 career field managers and senior Air Force leaders who witnessed TBA's capabilities during a product demonstration at the Pentagon in 2005. Sergeant Kaelin and a co-worker conducted the demonstration.

"They blew my socks off," said the chief of his initial impression of TBA. "My first comment was, 'We need this in the field ASAP.'"

DoD launches new civilian personnel system

By STEVEN DONALD SMITH
AMERICAN FORCES
PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON - Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England signed a directive to implement the new National Security Personnel System during a roll-out ceremony here April 28.

"Today is a milestone event," Secretary England said during the Pentagon ceremony. "After two and a half years of very hard work, the Department of Defense is initiating the human resources phase of the National Security Personnel System."

About 11,000 Defense Department civilian employees from 12

DoD organizations joined the initial Spiral 1.1 phase-in process of the new system.

Secretary England said the old civilian personnel system, used for 50 years, was not capable of keeping pace with the department's needs.

"As our military forces are reoriented to better address a changing landscape, the civilian workforce

too needs to become more agile, adaptable and fully integrated with the efforts of our military forces," he said.

Employees will convert to pay bands replacing the general schedule and given new results-focused performance plans clearly linked to their organization's mission and strategic goals, defense

officials said.

The performance appraisal cycle for Spiral 1.1 employees began April 30 and ends Oct. 31. These employees receive their first performance pay increases in January. In addition, employees performing satisfactorily receive an increase equivalent to the general pay and locality increase re-

ceived by general-schedule employees in January 2007, according to DOD officials.

Secretary England said he understood if some civilian employees had a little anxiety about the conversion, but he stressed that supervisors have been given a lot of training to help make sure people are comfortable with the new system.

ADS

Retreat reconnects couples before, after deployments

STORY AND PHOTOS
By LOUIS A. ARANA-BARRADAS
AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

HUNT, Texas - Nina Taylor tears up each time she thinks of her husband leaving. And then the uncontrollable sobs come.

But she can't help it. Because after three years of marriage, she still isn't used to the idea of him just packing up and deploying to some desert base for four to six months — and leaving her alone. He's already done that twice.

It's not that she hasn't adapted to Air Force life, or that she doesn't understand how important her husband is to his unit's success. On the contrary, she's proud to be a military spouse. And she's just as proud of her husband's role in the war on terrorism.

It's the separations she can't handle. They're torture, she said. The last time Master Sgt. Don Taylor deployed was during a Christmas holiday. She was doubly depressed.

"My God, it was devastating," she said. "I was missing him so much I just cried. I was so sad."

To cope, she buried herself in her work. As the district manager for a chain of fashion stores, she had a dozen stores to worry about. But that wasn't enough. When she ran out of work, she kept her granddaughter as often as her daughter would let her. But even that wasn't enough to keep her mind off the possibility of her husband dying in some faraway war zone.

"I remodeled the house. Spent money," said Mrs. Taylor, of Goldsboro, N.C. "That kept me busy."

But in a couple of weeks, Sergeant Taylor deploys from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., again. For him, it's nothing new. He's done it plenty during his 24 years of service. Now as the chief of the 333rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit loading section, his job has never been more important. His troops load the weapons F-15E Strike Eagles use to ply their deadly trade over Iraq.

"It's déjà vu all over again," said Sergeant Taylor, who is from Columbus, Ga. "You go where Uncle Sam sends you, but it's not something you want to do. It's something that has to be done."



JESSE PADILLA, A TIGUA TRIBE ELDER FROM THE YSLETA DEL SUR PUEBLO NEAR EL PASO, TEXAS, LIGHTS A CEREMONIAL PIPE FOR NINA TAYLOR DURING A SACRED SPIRITUAL CEREMONY AT A RETREAT IN HUNT, TEXAS, ON APRIL 22, 2006

Sergeant Taylor knows he won't have much time to reminisce when he's in the desert. He'll be busy working long hours and keeping his mind on his troops and getting the mission done safely. And like the last two times he deployed, he'll dutifully call his wife, e-mail her and send "snail mail" to fill in the details of his life in the desert. And he'll miss her as much as she misses him.

"It's a situation you never get used to," he said.

The sergeant admits it's easier for him to deal with the separations. He's more used to it. And knowing that

their love for each other will help them survive the separation still doesn't make the separations any easier to deal with. So any tidbit of information they can get to help make it easier is like manna from heaven.

That's why when Sergeant Taylor found out through his squadron first sergeant about a program that would allow him to spend a week with his wife at a Texas Hill Country retreat—with all expenses paid—he jumped at the chance to take her there. He called his wife, but she didn't need any persuading. She just asked when they could go.

"Sometimes you need to forget what you're doing and spend some quality time with your wife," Sergeant Taylor said. "This was a way to do that."

Sponsored by the Military, Veterans and Family Assistance Program, the retreat — called the Phoenix Project — aims to help military couples affected by the war on terrorism. Held at the Heart of the Hills Camp on the bank of the serene Guadalupe River, the retreat is the nonprofit organization's way of welcoming home veterans from the war. It's also a way to thank them for their service. It's a way the group helps troops transition from the battlefield to the home front.

In the Taylors' case the retreat let them and other couples get away together one last time before one of the spouses deployed. Couples found the retreat truly promised peace and quiet without the distraction of well-meaning family members, children and friends or telephones, television, radios or the Internet. Even using cellular telephones was tough.

At the camp, six couples spent a week doing pretty much what they wanted. The retreat isn't high pressure. There is a laid-back atmosphere and attendees have the option to attend group sessions on how to cope with the separations, or not. Couples could go hiking, fishing, canoeing and horseback riding. They could play basketball and volleyball, or get a massage. Or they could just lounge around and spend time together.

"You get to do a lot of things here that you would probably never do at home," Sergeant Taylor said. "We'd never sit down at home to do a (jigsaw) puzzle together. But, wow, puzzles are addictive."

The Taylors did attend the group sessions that addressed the periods before, during and after a deploy-

ment and how to learn to cope with each. The couple said the things they learned will help them to better cope with their upcoming separation, too. They found that telephone calls and e-mails are not the only ways to keep in touch. One thing they learned, and which they plan on doing, is to keep a journal of their time apart.

The retreat staff remained flexible. They were just as keen on meeting the attendees' every need as they were to help them learn to cope with deployments.

"It just blows your mind how well they treat you here," Sergeant Taylor said. "These are some very positive people."

After a week of fishing, horseback riding and some well-earned rest and relaxation, the Taylors were sad to be returning home. For one thing, it meant they'd be closer to their inevitable separation. But both said they'd be better prepared for this upcoming separation.

As the couple readied to return home, the Taylors said the retreat was like nothing they'd ever experienced. They made friends with other couples from their base. Mrs. Taylor plans to keep in touch with one of the spouses she met, so they can help each other manage. And now Sergeant Taylor also feels a little better about his wife being able to handle his absence better.

But what they were most surprised to find out was that for all they knew about each other, there were still a lot of things they didn't know about how each one ticked.

Sergeant Taylor learned some things his wife didn't like about him, of which he knew nothing about. He found he wasn't communicating with his wife as well as he could. And he found he wasn't expressing himself like he often thought he was.

"But I'll remember now," he said.

Sergeant Taylor said the retreat staff was caring and helpful. They wanted the couples to reconnect, to get to know each other better.

Best of all, the retreat brought them closer together, Mrs. Taylor said. After just a few days it felt like the honeymoon they never had, she said. There was no distraction. And she felt closer to her husband than ever before. It was a memory she will always cherish.

"It was one on one," she said. "I had his full attention."

ADS

New pod puts CAS phone call away

By Staff Sgt. Melissa Koskovich
U.S. Central Command Air Forces-Forward
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST AISA – Friendly Soldiers pinned down by enemy forces with no relief in sight can now pick up a phone and call the friendly local fighter pilot, flying overhead only miles away, for help.

With the new Fighter Aircraft Communication Enhancement pod, gives ground units in combat that edge.

Fielded for the first time in late 2004, the FACE pod is a solution to communication problems often experienced by aircraft in the mountainous regions of Afghanistan.

Now used effectively in several theaters, the pod allows ground units to communicate with aircraft ready to provide close air support through the Air Support Operations Center in Bagram, Afghanistan.

“Aircraft communications are primarily line-of-sight,” said Col. Gregory Touhill, director of com-

munications at the Combined Air Operations Center here. “The mountains in Afghanistan were creating communication issues for our A-10 aircraft in that region. This technology is a solution to that problem.”

The pod enables ground units to relay their coordinates to patrolling aircraft, allowing them to engage the enemy as needed.

“Our engineers hollowed out a jamming pod, put two iridium satellite-based telephones in it, and interfaced that with the aircraft’s radio,” said Colonel Touhill. “Now, any aircraft that can carry a pod can use this technology with little or no modification, and it’s highly effective.”

A U.S. Central Command Air Forces initiative, the FACE pod was developed in cooperation with the Air Armament Center at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

“It’s important that we keep finding innovative ways to solve operational problems,” said Colonel Touhill. “The FACE pod is another example of how we are leveraging technology to support the warfighter.”



COURTESY PHOTO

AN A-10 CARRIES A FIGHTER AIRCRAFT COMMUNICATION ENHANCEMENT POD. FIELDED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN LATE 2004, THE FACE POD IS A SOLUTION TO COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS OFTEN EXPERIENCED BY AIRCRAFT IN THE MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS OF AFGHANISTAN.

ADS

SERVICES

Auto skills center

Contract mechanic and paint and body tech — Work done by appointment only.

To make an appointment, call 828-2295.

Bowling center

NASCAR League —League meeting May 16 at 7 p.m.; league time decided during the meeting. Participants must be 16 years or older.

Family special — Bowl for \$1 a game every Sunday.

For more information, call 828-6329.

Community center

Scrapbook all-nighter — Today from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Cost is \$2. Bring a favorite dish for snacks.

Latin all-nighter — May 12 beginning at 9 p.m. Cost is \$3 (club members get \$1 off). Participants must be 18 years old.

Mother's Day family bingo — May 14 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Power yoga — Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Cost is \$40 for eight sessions. Must bring own mat, blocks and straps.

Elementary Russian — Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 for eight sessions.

Magic class — Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. All ages invited. Adults must accompany children. Four sessions a month. \$20 per person.

Photography classes — Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$30 for eight sessions.

Latin dance — Mondays and Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. Cost for classes is \$25 per person or \$45 for a couple.

Spanish classes — Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 for eight sessions.

Dog obedience — Saturdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$35 for four sessions.

For more information, call 828-2246.

Youth programs

Kids Klub — Today from 6:30 to 9 p.m. For children ages 6 to 9. Cost is \$5, members get \$1 off.

Family skate night — Saturday from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$5; members get \$1 off.

Kids hang night — May 12 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. This event is for children ages 9 to 12. Cost is \$5; members get \$1 off.

Teen late night — May 12 from 9:30 p.m. to midnight. Teens welcome. Cost is \$5; members get \$1 off.

For more information, call 828-2501.

Outdoor adventure program

Come to the outdoor adventure program building (Bldg. 2800 across from the youth center) to get a calendar to help plan all outdoor adventures.

For more information, call 828-6333.

Outdoor recreation supply

Video rentals — Video rentals are available for sportsmens' needs. Week-end rentals are \$1, day rates are 75 cents and additional days are 50 cents.

Sportsman camp trailer special — Camp trailers are reserved the first working day of the month and may be reserved for the following month. Prices are \$60 per weekend, \$45 over night and \$15 each additional day.

For more information, call 828-2237.

Library

Story time — Wednesdays at 1 p.m. for supervised children ages 3 to 5.

Pony Espresso Café — Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Serves a variety of coffee drinks, smoothies and pastries.

Video club — The yearly membership fee is \$12, and members can borrow up to three videos at a time for a one-week rental.

Multi-media center — Features color copier, scanner and photo printing.

For more information, call 828-2326.

Pizza Etc.

May special — One 12-inch two-topping pizza and two 24-ounce sodas for \$10.50.

Soup of the day —

Monday — Chicken gumbo

Tuesday — Chicken and dumplings

Wednesday — Creamy potato with bacon

Thursday — Cream of broccoli

Friday — Clam chowder

Gunfighters Club

Cook your own steak or chicken — Every Thursday in May. The cost is \$3.95 for club members.

Gunfighters night buffet — Wednesday and May 24 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dinner is a members-only benefit. The cost is \$3.66 for adults and \$1.80 for children under 12.

Silver Sage Golf Course

Mother's Day merchandise sale — Monday to May 14. Save 15 percent on all women's merchandise.

Beginners league — Wednesdays. This non-competitive league offers beginners the opportunity to get on-course experience and familiarize themselves with the golf course. Twilight rates apply. Adults, 18 and older, are invited.

Mothers play free day — May 14. Bring mom out to the golf course for a day on the greens. Mom plays free.

Arts and crafts center

Custom engraving orders — Receive 10 percent off all custom engraving orders this Monday to Wednesday.

Beginners frame and matting class — Tuesday and May 16 from 5 to 8 p.m. Ages 16 and up. Cost is \$25 (materials are not included).

CHAPEL

Catholic

Sunday Mass — 8 a.m.

CCD Sunday — 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. for 3 year olds to adults; located in the Religious Education Building.

Daily mass — Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.

Protestant

Sunday school — 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. for 6 month olds to adults; located in the Religious Education Building.

Traditional service — Sunday at 11 a.m. Also provided at this time are a children's church for 4 year olds to second grade and Wee Joy for those ages 6 months to 5 years.

Jubilee Full Gospel Baptist Service — Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

Protestant extras — Protestant Women of the Chapel meets Wednesday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Religious Education Building.

All Sunday Services held at the community center due to the chapel renovation.

WELLNESS

Baby care basics

Take the first steps in parenting. Learn the essentials of basic care and safety for the newest member of the family. Class is Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon at family advocacy. To register, call 828-7566 or 828-7520.

Bundles for babies

This class helps expecting parents ease anxieties, gain confidence and skills while learning basic infant care, parenting skills, coping strategies for lifestyle changes and financial planning for the transition to parenthood. Upon completion of the class, receive a free "bundle" from the Air Force Aid Society. Class is Thursday from 1 to 3;30 p.m. at the family support center. To register, call 828-2458.

Heart Link

Learn to adjust, adapt and belong to the Air Force family. This fun, interactive and informative program gives spouses the tools to understand and navigate through the Air Force mission, customs, traditions and support services. With the Heart Link advantage spouses have the tools to take care of themselves, family and community. Class is May 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Gunfighters Club. To register, call 828-2458.

EDUCATION NEWS

Troops to Teachers program

The Troops To Teachers program provides financial aid to qualified applicants in the form of a \$5,000 stipend to help them complete teacher training and teach in a high need district for three years, or a \$10,000 bonus to teach in a high-need schoolhouse for three years. Troops to Teachers also provides advising and referral assistance to those who transition to public school teaching. The Spouses to Teachers program offers advice and financial aid (up to \$599 for exam fees) in 14 states.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers the following CCAF eligible courses:

ECON 210 Microeconomics - CCAF Social Science

MGMT 201 Principles of Management - CCAF Management

MATH 140 College Algebra - CCAF Math

HIST 110 World History - CCAF Social Science

The University of Oklahoma

Enrollment for the master of public administration summer term continues. The program is open to military and civilians.

For a complete list of programs and classes Visit the University of Oklahoma Web site at www.gouo.ou.edu.

Park University

Park University now has a new scholarship for management majors. Stop by the office for details.

The summer Class schedule is now available, and registration began Monday. People may register online at any time. Classes begin May 29 on campus and June 5 Online.

VIPER VISITS




PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHAWNTAIN SLOAN

VIPER, ALONG WITH THE BASE HOUSING OFFICE, WANTS TO REMIND MILITARY HOUSING RESIDENTS THAT LAWNS SHOULD BE KEPT BETWEEN 3 TO 5 INCHES. THE HOUSING OFFICE PERFORMS ROUTINE YARD INSPECTIONS ON TUESDAYS, BUT NO-NOTICE INSPECTIONS MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED AT ANY TIME. IF YOU WOULD LIKE VIPER TO VISIT YOUR SHOP, CALL THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE AT 828-6800 OR SEND AN E-MAIL TO PA.NEWS@MOUNTAINHOME.AF.MIL

Boise State University

Boise State University now takes enrollment for the summer 2006 and fall 2006 semesters. Summer classes begin July 10. For more information, call the BSU office at 828-6746, stop by or visit www.boisestate.edu.

HOUSING NEWS

Flower vouchers

The self help store still has flower vouchers available for occupants who already took advantage of the flower give away and would like to participate in the second offering. The store begins issuing vouchers Monday.

House cleaning tips

For those getting ready to PCS, it's never too early to begin preparations, according to housing officials. It is the responsibility of family housing occupants to maintain their quarters and lawns in a clean and sanitary condition. This not only makes living in family housing more enjoyable, but also helps make the termination process smoother. The housing brochure given to base residents prior to moving in has information on the upkeep, cleaning and maintenance of family housing units. Some helpful tips are as follows:

- Kitchens:** Clean appliances on a regular basis, especially stoves and ovens. Wipe down the exterior of the stove, dishwasher and refrigerator regularly. Never use sharp objects when defrosting the freezer. Avoid putting grease, onions, celery and potato peels in the garbage disposal since they can cause it to stop up or jam.
- Bathrooms:** Clean ceramic tile with a mild detergent. Clean fixtures and floors with a non-abrasive cleaner. A pumice stone works well on toilet bowl rings. Wipe down mold and mildew with a bleach solution (one part bleach to 10 parts water) or a commercial product for mildew as soon as it appears.
- Floors:** Damp mop the floors. Excess water on wood floors can damage the wood.
- Carpet:** Vacuum weekly. Clean spills immediately before they become stains. During the final inspection, the housing inspector goes over the carpet with a black light to check for pet stains. This ensures the incoming occupant isn't assigned a unit with below standard carpet. The self help store has carpet cleaners available for occupants to use, they also have black lights to check the carpets before a final inspection. Occupants are held liable for damages beyond fair wear and tear.
- Walls:** Use a mild soap solution to

- keep the walls clean. Wipe down the walls on a regular basis. If the walls are discolored or have candle or black soot-like residue on them, clean with a bleach solution or commercial mild abrasive cleanser.
- Pest control:** Pests are attracted to shelter and food sources, so discourage critters from homesteading in the residence by keeping a clean house.
- Garages:** For vehicle leaks, place a piece of wood or cardboard underneath to prevent oil stains. Clean spills as soon as possible to prevent grease and oil build up on the garage or carport floors.
- Ground care:** Keep the lawn mowed to a height of 3 to 5 inches. Keep bushes and shrubs trimmed and away from the house. Take unused or broken landscaping materials (stepping stones, bricks, timbers, etc.) to the recycle center. Make sure grass is removed from fence lines and cracks in sidewalks.
- For more information on family housing responsibilities and liability, call the housing office at 828-2781.

Watering rules

Dunes, Presidential Acres and the 8000 area housing residents are allowed to water their yards on odd number days, and other areas are allowed to water on even number days. Watering hours run from 5 to 9 a.m. and 6 to 10 p.m.

For optimum results, mow the grass to between 3 and 5 inches. Taller grass shades itself so the lawn needs less water.

Lawn write-ups are issued for brown grass and when watering out of the allowed watering hours. The watering hours are strictly enforced. Occupants violating this policy receive a written notice on the first violation and a \$25 administrative fee for additional write-ups.

Military members going out of town for an extended amount of time are reminded to put someone in charge of their house who will keep up with lawn maintenance.

Pool policy

With the summer season approaching, the concern for safety and liability regarding swimming pools is a topic of conversation and concern, said housing officials. Before purchasing a pool make sure to know the policy. The only pools authorized in military housing are toddler wading pools. The wading pools cannot be more than 18 inches deep.

An AF Form 332 isn't required for wading pools; however, the pools must be emptied daily. For more information, call the housing office at 828-2781.

THE BIG SCREEN

Today — *Failure To Launch* — PG-13 — 7p.m. — starring Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew McConaughey. A thirty-something man who still lives with his parents falls in love with the woman of his dreams but begins to suspect she was hired by his parents to get him out of the house. *1 hour, 37 minutes.*



Saturday and Sunday — *Inside Man* — R — 7 p.m. — starring Denzel Washington and Jody Foster. A tough detective Frazier matches wits with a clever



bank robber as a dangerous cat-and-mouse game unfolds. Unexpectedly, a power broker with a hidden agenda, emerges to inject even more instability into an already volatile situation. *2 hours, 9 minutes.*

Monday — *Stay Alive* — PG-13 — 7p.m. — starring Jon Foster and Samaira Armstrong. After the mysterious brutal death of an old friend, a group of teenagers find themselves in possession of “Stay Alive,” a next-generation horror survival videogame based on the true story of a 17th-century noblewoman known as “The Blood Countess.” The gamers don’t know anything about the game other than the fact they’re not supposed to have it — and they’re “dying” to play it. *1 hour, 25 minutes.*



Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – Theater closed.

FITNESS
MONTH
ACTIVITIES

Today

9 a.m. – Singles racquetball tournament

Sunday

Basketball tournament

10 a.m. – Three 3-on-3 games

11 a.m. – Slam dunk contest

11:30 a.m. – 3-on-3 games

12:30 p.m. – 3-point and free-throw shoot outs

May 19

3 p.m. – Run for Remembrance (4.2 miles).

UPCOMING
SPORTS
ACTIVITIES

Beginners golf league

Wednesdays. This non-competitive league offers beginners the opportunity to get on-course experience and familiarize themselves with the golf course. Twilight rates apply. Adults 18 and older are invited.

Mothers play free day

May 14. Bring mom out to the golf course for a day on the greens. Mom plays free.

Military family fun day

May 20 from 1 to 6:00 p.m. at the pool. The cost is \$2 for the whole family.

America’s children run and fun day

May 20, race registration begins at 9 a.m. Opening ceremonies start at 10 a.m. with the race following. Children ages 6 to 13 are allowed for the run, and all ages are welcome for the fun day activities. Admission is free. Tickets are sold for the inflatables. For more information, call the youth center at 828-2501.

Summer bowling leagues forming

Summer bowling leagues are now forming for a NASCAR , Cartoon Network, mixed doubles, 9-pin no-tap and scratch trios leagues. For more information, call 828-6329.

Gunfighters fight for right to be called ‘Biggest Loser’



MEMBERS OF THE BLUE TEAM DEFEATED THE RED TEAM MONDAY DURING THEIR FIRST CHALLENGE COMPETITION DURING THE MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE "BIGGEST LOSER" EVENT. THE COMPETITION KICKED OFF MONDAY AND ENDS JULY 25 WHEN ALL THE COMPETITORS HAVE THE FINAL WEIGH-IN TO DECIDE THE WINNER.

PHOTOS AND STORY
By SENIOR AIRMAN BRIAN STIVES
GUNFIGHTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Move over reality television. A real life weight loss showdown started Monday at Mountain Home Air Force Base.

They may not reality T.V. stars with personal trainers. However, these 20 Gunfighters are just a handful of Americans who watched NBC’s “Biggest Loser” competition with one thought in mind: “If they can do it, maybe I can, too.”

Monday was the first day of the competition, sponsored by the fitness center for National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, and competitors started off with a fitness test, weigh in and tug-of-war challenge.

While the 12-week contest is called the biggest loser, both coaches want their teams to get more out of this competition than just weight loss.

“I am not really concerned with my team losing a lot of weight,” said Tech. Sgt. Richard Pyle, blue team coach and instructor. “What I really

want them to do is learn how to exercise to become healthier for themselves and their families. Losing weight is just an added bonus.”

“I want them to be able to change their life and be happy to be better for themselves and their families,” said Allison Castle, red team coach and instructor. “We want to show them different ways to be healthier and happy.”

While some of the participants want to shed a few pounds, many of them share the same thoughts about the competition as their coaches.

“I want to learn a better lifestyle - meaning a better way to workout,” said Keone “Mr. K.” Valdez, 366th Services Squadron and red team member.

“I am going to be a new grandmother and I want to be able to be healthy for my family and to be able to run around with my grandbaby,” said Rita Stives, Gunfighter spouse and blue team member.

The competition was opened to anyone with a military identification card, and there were some active-duty members hoping to get whipped back into shape.



RED TEAM MEMBERS BEGIN A LAP AROUND THE BASE TRACK TO HELP MEASURE A STARTING POINT FOR THE COMPETITION. CONTESTANTS ALSO COMPLETED PUSH UPS, CRUNCHES AND A 3-MINUTE STEP TEST MONDAY.

“I want to look professional in my uniform again,” said Staff Sgt. Christina Kroll, 366th Mission support Squadron. “I also want to get healthy for my daughter and myself.”

During the competition, the teams must work out six times a week, two of those times with their respective coaches. During the times with the coaches, the teams will learn all of the ways to work out in hopes of making a life change.

“My team will be doing a little of everything,” said Sergeant Pyle. “One time we will hit the weight room, another may be a spinning

class or even running outside. I just want to introduce my team to as many things as I can think of so that they may find something they like to do and will stick with it for life.”

Each Tuesday through July 25, contestants have a weight-in with a challenge where they can win prizes. Come out to the community center at 4:30 p.m. these days and cheer on each individual who made a life-changing decision.

Although, there are no cash prizes in this biggest loser contest, each competing Gunfighter can take home a much better prize—a longer, healthier life.

SPORTS
ROUNDUP

Intramural
Volleyball Standings

Thunder League

Team	Record
726th ACS	10 – 1
CMS	5 – 2
EMS	4 – 5
CES	3 – 4
LRS	3 – 4
MDG	2 – 5
391st AMU	1 – 6

Lightening League

Team	Record
CS	6 – 0
MOS	4 – 2
Chiefs/Shirts	3 – 3
OSS	2 – 4
SVS	2 – 4
Bldg. 512	1 – 5

UPCOMING
GAMES

MONDAY

391st AMU vs. LRS - 5 p.m.

CES vs. CMS - 6 p.m.

CES vs. 391st AMU - 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

MDG vs. EMS - 5 p.m.

391st AMU vs. CMS - 6 p.m.

CMS vs. MDG - 7 p.m.

Bldg. 512 vs. CS - 8 p.m.

Intramural
Golf Standings

Team	Weekly Points	Year Points
CES	12	32
726th ACS	12	28
MDG	11	26
CS	4	22
CMS (A)	1	21
SVS	6	18
MOS	8	18
AMMO	BYE	14
Det. 7	6	12
EMS	12	12
LRS	8	11
CMS (B)	0	9
MSS	2	3

ADS